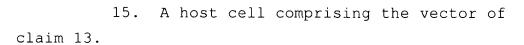
I claim:

- 1. An isolated Nope polypeptide, or functional fragment thereof, comprising the amino acid sequence of a Nope polypeptide (SEQ ID NO:2), or a modification thereof.
- 2. The isolated Nope polypeptide of claim 1, wherein said functional fragment comprises the amino acid sequence of a Nope polypeptide extracellular domain (SEQ ID NO:4).
- 3. The isolated Nope polypeptide of claim 2,
 wherein said functional fragment comprises an amino acid
 sequence selected from the group consisting of
 immunoglobulin domain 1 (SEQ ID NO:8), immunoglobulin domain
 2 (SEQ ID NO:10), immunoglobulin domain 3 (SEQ ID NO:12),
 immunoglobulin domain 4 (SEQ ID NO:14), fibronectin domain 1

 15 (SEQ ID NO:16), fibronectin domain 2 (SEQ ID NO:18),
 fibronectin domain 3 (SEQ ID NO:20), fibronectin domain 4
 (SEQ ID NO:22), and fibronectin domain 5 (SEQ ID NO:24).
- The isolated Nope polypeptide of claim 1, wherein said functional fragment comprises the amino acid
 sequence of a Nope polypeptide intracellular domain (SEQ ID NO:6).
 - 5. An antibody that specifically binds the Nope polypeptide of claim 1.
- 6. The antibody of claim 5, wherein said antibody 25 is a polyclonal antibody.

59

- 7. The antibody of claim 5, wherein said antibody is a monoclonal antibody.
- 8. A method of detecting a Nope polypeptide,comprising contacting a sample with the antibody of claim 5,and detecting specific binding of said antibody.
 - 9. An isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding a Nope polypeptide amino acid sequence referenced as SEQ ID NO:2, or a modification thereof.
- 10. An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising 10 the nucleotide sequence referenced as SEQ ID NO:1, or a modification thereof.
- 11. The nucleic acid molecule of claim 10, wherein said nucleotide sequence is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS:3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21 and 23.
 - 12. A Nope oligonucleotide, comprising between 15 and 300 contiguous nucleotides of SEQ ID NO:1 or the antisense strand thereof.
- 13. The isolated Nope oligonucleotide of claim
 20 12, wherein said oligonucleotide comprises between 15 and
 300 contiguous nucleotides of SEQ ID NO:5 or the anti-sense
 strand thereof.
 - 14. A vector comprising an expression element operationally linked to the nucleotide sequence of claim 10.



- 16. A method of detecting a Nope nucleic acid molecule in a sample, comprising contacting said sample with a Nope oligonucleotide of claim 12 under conditions allowing specific hybridization to a Nope nucleic acid molecule, and detecting said specific hybridization.
- 17. A method of detecting a Nope nucleic acid molecule in a sample, comprising contacting said sample with a Nope oligonucleotide of claim 13 under conditions allowing specific hybridization to a Nope nucleic acid molecule, and detecting said specific hybridization.
- 18. A method of detecting a Nope nucleic acid molecule in a sample, comprising contacting said sample with two or more Nope oligonucleotides of claim 12, amplifying a nucleic acid molecule, and detecting said amplification.
 - 19. The method of claim 18, wherein said amplification is performed using polymerase chain reaction.
- 20. A kit comprising one or more Nope 20 oligonucleotides comprising between 15 and 300 contiguous nucleotides of SEQ ID NO:1 or the anti-sense strand thereof.